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I have stories to tell. I'm a storyteller. As long as I'm telling stories, and as long as I think I'm telling them well, then I'm going to want to do this. —*Shonda Rhimes*

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CHAPTER RECAP

For Shonda, a love of words, reading, and language came early in life. Raised by intellectual and supportive parents, she sought to make a career in writing. Her father told her time and time again, "the only limit to your success is your own imagination," wisdom that Shonda took to heart.

While the rest of her college peers were taking jobs in New York, Shonda knew that there was something more in store for her. Though there were bumps along the way (including living with her sister in San Francisco and working non-writing jobs), Shonda stayed focused on what she knew she was good at: telling a compelling story.

What's important to remember about Shonda's journey is that she stayed open to the opportunities that came her way. When she was offered the chance to write for television after writing several film scripts, she seized the moment. Even though her first pilot on war correspondents didn't take off, she kept moving forward and never allowed the fact that there weren't many women or black writers in the industry deter her at any stage.

ASSIGNMENT

- Write down your goals for this MasterClass and for your writing career. Make them specific, and tie them to an immediate action you can take within the next week. Share them with your classmates!

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